Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for continuous production of Hepatitis A virus (HAV), comprising the steps of providing a serum free cell culture of VERO cells bound to a microcarrier, the method comprising infecting said serum free cell culture of VERO cells with HAV[[,]]; incubating said serum free cell culture of VERO cells infected with HAV to propagate said HAV at reduced temperature, whereby HAV is continuously released into the cell culture medium and infected cells release at least 50% of viral antigen into the cell supernatant; and harvesting said HAV released into the supernatant of the cell culture medium.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said cells are grown at a temperature of about 37°C.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said reduced temperature is ~~reduced to~~ about 34°C prior to infection.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the microcarrier is selected from the group consisting of spherical ~~or porous~~ microcarriers and porous microcarriers.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein the microcarriers comprise dextran, gelatine, collagen, plastic, or cellulose.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the cells are infected with a seed virus of HAV strain HM175/7.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the cells are infected with HAV at a multiplicity of infection between about 0.01 and about 5.0.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell culture is subcultured from a working cell bank and passaged by use of a microbial protease or a trypsin-like enzyme of a microbial origin.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein said microbial protease is the purified trypsin-like enzyme of Streptomyces griseus Pronase.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~HAV is continuously produced~~ the cells bound to the microcarrier continuously produce and release HAV into the cell culture medium for at least 60 days.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said serum free cell culture of VERO cells is a serum and protein free cell culture of VERO cells.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method of isolating complete Hepatitis A virus (HAV) particles~~, the method of~~ comprising the steps of providing a serum free cell culture of VERO cells bound to a microcarrier[[,]]; infecting said cell culture with HAV, incubating said cell culture infected with HAV to propagate said HAV at reduced temperature, whereby HAV is continuously released into the cell culture medium and infected cells release at least 50% of viral antigen into the cell supernatant; harvesting said HAV released into the supernatant of the cell culture medium; and isolating complete HAV particles from said HAV harvest of the cell culture supernatant.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein said cells are grown at a temperature of about 37°C prior to infection.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method according to claim [[12]] 13, wherein ~~the cell culture~~ said reduced temperature is ~~reduced to~~ about 34°C after infection.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the microcarrier is selected from the group consisting of smooth microcarriers [[or]] and porous microcarriers.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 15, wherein the microcarriers comprise dextran, collagen, plastic, polyethylene or cellulose.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the cells are infected with a seed virus of HAV strain HM175/7.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the cell culture is subcultured from a working cell bank and passaged by use of a microbial protease or a trypsin-like enzyme of a microbial protease.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein said microbial protease is the purified trypsin-like enzyme of Streptomyces griseus pronase.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein ~~HAV is continuously produced~~ the cells bound to the microcarrier continuously produce and release HAV into the cell culture medium for at least 60 days.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the complete HAV particles are isolated by isopycnic centrifugation.

Claims 22-23 (cancelled).